

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for loading a first operating system onto a storage device of a data processing system, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a first media comprising operating system files for installing the first operating system onto the storage device;
 - providing configuration-specific data files on a second media;
 - initializing the data processing system from the second media to provide a second operating system using the configuration-specific data files to configure the data processing system;
 - loading the first operating system files from the first media to the storage device using the second operating system to install the first operating system; and
 - reinitializing the data processing system from the storage device to install the first operating system.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing the first media comprises copying the operating system files stored on the storage device to the first media.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the first media further comprises copying all the files from the storage device to the first media.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the first media comprises magnetic tape, and copying all the files comprises running a data backup routine.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing ^a ~~configuration-specific data files~~ ^{Second media} comprises copying the configuration-specific data files from the storage device to the second media.
6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the second media comprises a floppy diskette.
7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the configuration-specific data files comprise system configuration files.
8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the configuration-specific data files comprise operating system configuration files.
9. The method of Claim 5, wherein the configuration-specific data files comprise device driver files.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the storage device comprises a hard disk drive.
11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second media comprises a removable diskette.
12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first media comprises magnetic tape.
13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of initializing the storage device prior to the

step of loading the ^{fully Configured} ~~first~~ operating system files from the first media to the storage device.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of initializing the storage device comprises formatting the storage device.
15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of initializing the storage device comprises partitioning the storage device.
16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of initializing the storage device further comprises formatting a partition of the storage device.
17. The method of Claim 16, wherein each partition is formatted using a format command associated with the particular operating system and file system type to be loaded into that partition.
- Sub a 2 → 18. A method for loading a first operating system onto a disk drive of a data processing system, comprising the steps of:
 - copying first operating system files stored on the disk drive to a first media;
 - copying configuration-specific data files from the disk drive to a second media;
 - initializing the data processing system from second media to provide a second operating system using the configuration-specific data files to configure the data processing system;
 - initializing the disk drive prior to the step of loading the first operating system files from the first media to the disk drive.

loading the first operating system files from the first media to the disk drive using the second operating system to install the first operating system; and

reinitializing the data processing system from the disk drive to provide the first operating system.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of copying first operating system files comprises copying all the files from the disk drive to the first media.
20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the first media comprises magnetic tape, and copying all the files comprises running a data backup routine.
21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the second media comprises a removable diskette.
22. The method of Claim 18, wherein the configuration-specific data files comprise system configuration files.
23. The method of Claim 18, wherein the configuration-specific data files comprise operating system configuration files.
24. The method of Claim 18, wherein the configuration-specific data files comprise device driver files.
25. The method of Claim 18, wherein the first media comprises magnetic tape.

26. The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of initializing the disk drive comprises formatting the disk drive.
27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of initializing the disk drive step further comprises partitioning the disk drive.
28. The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of initializing the disk drive comprises formatting a partition of the disk drive.
29. The method of Claim 18, wherein each partition is formatted using a format command specific to the particular operating system to be loaded into that partition.
30. A method for loading a first operating system onto a disk drive of a first data processing system, comprising the steps of:
 - configuring a disk drive of a second data processing system with the desired configuration for the first data processing system;
 - copying first operating system files stored on the disk drive of the second data processing system to a first media.
 - copying configuration-specific data files from the disk drive of the second data processing system to a second media;
 - initializing the first data processing system from the second media to provide a second operating system using the configuration-specific data files to configure the first data processing system; and

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loading the first operating system files from the first media to a disk drive of the first data processing system using the second operating system to install the first operating system.

31. The method of Claim 30, further comprising the step of limiting to a predetermined quantity the number of times the first operating system files can be loaded from the first media to the disk drive.
32. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first media comprises an optical disk.

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